marks by USPTO. However, the search of USPTO database has not produced any result with regard to pendency of any application for grant of patent on yoga practiced in steam room.

(c) and (d) Whenever an obvious case of infringement of Traditional Knowledge is brought to its notice, Government takes suitable action depending on the circumstances of the case.

Beneficiaries of SEZs in rural India

2301. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) who will be benefited in creating more and more SEZs in rural India;

(b) whether it is a fact that the provisions of various land legislation are violated in the policy of SEZ; and

(c) instead of allotting land to landless workers whether SEZ will provide land to big industrial houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The main objectives of the Special Economic Zone Act, 2005 are generation of additional economic activity, promotion of exports of goods and services, attracting investment from foreign and domestic sources, generation of employment opportunities and development of infrastructure facilities. The SEZs are, therefore, expected to trigger a large flow of foreign and domestic investment in infrastructure and productive capacity, with strong backward and forward linkages with the domestic area leading to generation of additional economic activity and creation of employment opportunities. The multiplier effect of the investments made and employment created is expected to have positive impact on the economy in general.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Only such SEZ applications are considered for approval by the Central Government, which are duly recommended by the State Government concerned. The States have been advised that no such proposal would be considered for approval where land has been or proposed to be compulsorily acquired after 5th April, 2007.

Export of best quality iron-ore

2302. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present policy permits the private players to export best quality iron-ore without substantial value addition;

(b) if so, whether any pro-active measures are proposed to be initiated to correct the said anomaly in the policy which goes against national interest;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Government permits export of iron-ore with iron content upto 64% without canalization. While export of iron-ore with more than 64% iron content is canalized through MMTC Ltd., Government permits export of iron-ore fines with more than 64% iron content against licence by private mine owners/leaseholders.

(b) to (d) The existing iron-ore export policy regulates and promotes judicious use of iron-ore for domestic purpose and export of surplus quantity. Even after exporting iron ore surplus after meeting domestic demand there are still surpluse is left.

Production of iron ore is in excess of current domestic demand. The surplus iron-ore fines, produced during mining as well as sizing and, calibrating of lumpy-ore is being evacuated through exports as there is less demand for it from the domestic steel industry.

Progress of negotiations with ASEAN over FTA

2303. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of negotiations on the Free Trade Agreement with the ASEAN;

(b) whether any amicable solution has been reached over differences with the ASEAN on the tariff on palm oil; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Negotiations for India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (FTA) are currently in progress on different parts of the proposed Agreement, including on Trade in Goods, Trade in services and Investments etc.

(b) and (c) India has offered a gradual reduction of tariff on Crude Palm Oil (CPO) to 50% level by 2018 and on Refined Palm Oil (RPO) to 60% level by 2018. The offer is under negotiation.

Export of iron-ore

2304. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to allow the export of iron-ore;

(b) if so, whether this proposal has taken care of the requirements of indigenous industries needs including that of PSUs;